



Hello Friends,

I proudly nominated local business owner Oscar Ramos of Ramos Torres Wines as the small business owner of the year from Assembly District 30 at the 2008 California Small Business Day. The event is sponsored by over 30 small business organizations and chambers.

www.csba.com

The Central Valley is noted for the strength of its small businesses, and nobody epitomizes the entrepreneurial spirit more than Oscar Ramos. A local who has made a true commitment to his craft and his community, I am pleased to nominate Oscar Ramos a small business leader in the 30th Assembly District. **I applaud the release of Ramos Torres Wines' 2005 vintage and look forward to the opening of a tasting room in Kingsburg in the near future.**

A resident of Kingsburg, Oscar F. Ramos Torres is a young winemaker with a degree in Enology from Fresno State University. He began his career as an assistant winemaker with the 2004 crush. Today, Oscar's vision of producing his own label has become a reality. Ramos Torres Winery produces wines that truly introduce the Central Valley with its very own premium wine.

The idea was – and is – to introduce the Central Valley with its very own premium boutique wine. Oscar has remained close to his family and his community, all the while introducing Ramos Torres wines. Oscar serves on the Board of Directors for the Celebration of Wine Festival and is Director of the Board of Viticulture and Enology Alumni Association at Fresno State University. **For additional information on Ramos Torres Wines, visit:** www.ramostorres.com.

Congratulations, Oscar!

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What's Happening in Sacramento

The State's independent Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) released their review and recommendations on the Governor's May Revise budget. According to the LAO, the state's sluggish economy has reduced the revenue outlook for 2008-09 by about \$6 billion. Combined with rising costs in some areas, the state faces a remaining budget shortfall of \$15 billion, after accounting for the \$7 billion in solutions adopted as part of the special session. The LAO went further in offering critique of the Governor's proposals and alternative solutions to the State's

budget crisis. www.lao.ca.gov/2008/bud/may_revise/may_revise_051908.pdf

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has released its *Community Guide to Recognizing and Reporting Pesticide Problems*, designed to make it easier for people to get help in a pesticide emergency and resolve pesticide use complaints and concerns. The booklet also has easy-to-understand information about how DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners oversee the safe use of pesticides in California. And the guide tells you how to find information on pesticide use in your areas. www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/comguide/index.htm

May 30 marked the last day for the State Assembly to pass Assembly bills. Commonly known as the “House of Origin Deadline,” is a significant date on the legislative calendar. Every Assemblymember must have had their bills pass out of the Assembly and on to the Senate by May 30, or the bill dies. Policy committees worked feverishly to analyze hundreds of bills and convene to vote in time to meet the deadline, making May a very busy month for legislation. For more legislative deadlines, go to: www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset11text.asp

My Legislative Highlights

I am pleased to announce the passage of three of my bills out of the Assembly. The bills now head to the State Senate. **AB 2219 encourages the incorporation of greater water conservation measures into developments** to help California meet its needs associated with anticipated population growth. Supporters of AB 2219 include the California Building Industry Association (sponsor), Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Kern Home Builders Association, Edward Kashian – CEO Lance Kashian & Company, and McMillin Homes. **AB 2342 would place the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in statute.** It is supported by a number of community leaders and organizations, including the Friant Water Authority, Kern County, Tulare County Economic Development Corporation, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, Kings Community Action Organization, City of Bakersfield, City of Fresno, City of Hanford, and many others. **AB 2572 focuses on menu labeling** and would require every covered food facility, with at least 20 other food facilities in the state with the same trade name, to disclose certain nutritional information for each standard food item, including: calories, amount of fat, saturated fat, and trans fat, amount of carbohydrates, and total amount of sodium. It is supported by hundreds of restaurants throughout the Central Valley and California.

I joined a number of other Legislators in co-authoring a letter to Senate and Assembly leadership seeking a renewed effort to place a comprehensive water bond package on the November 2008 ballot. As public officials, we have an opportunity and obligation to provide water facilities for future generations that modernize our current infrastructure – the water storage and delivery system conceived and developed by farsighted political leaders of years past. Working together we are hopeful that a bipartisan and comprehensive water bond can be passed this year.

Let me acknowledge and thank the **wonderful interns** that have been part of our operations and successes this past semester. We have been fortunate to have a number of hard working individuals who have balanced school and work and shown a dedication to helping the 30th Assembly District.

In Sacramento, **Angela Oliveira** (Hanford) and **Melissa Hurtado** (Sanger) have taken time from their studies at Sacramento State University to help in my Capitol office. In the Bakersfield office, I thank two seniors from Ridgeview High School: **Nina Gupta** of Ridgeview High School, who will be attending UCLA, and **Kaila Davis** who will be attending Howard University in the fall. And in the Hanford office, a big thanks to **Edward Hinojos**, a Lemoore High senior who will be attending Fresno State in the fall.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

I met with Sheriffs from across California including **Kings County Sheriff Chris Jordan** and **Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood**. The California State Sheriffs Association presented me with a resolution honoring me for my work to improve public safety in the Central Valley and across California. Over the past 6 years, I have proudly authored legislation and worked with local law enforcement to expand Megan's Law so that all Californians can know what convicted sex offenders are living in their neighborhoods, worked to help our police get control over the methamphetamine problems that plague our communities, and secured additional funding for law enforcement officers in the Central Valley. www.calsheriffs.org

County Administrative Officers (CAO) from Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties all came to Sacramento this week as part of an event with the California State Association of Counties. **Kern County CAO Ronnie Erreas** and **Legislative Analyst Allan Krauter** updated me on Kern County plans relative to the budget crisis. **Tulare County CAO Jean Rousseau**, **Board Representative Jeff Forbes**, and **Supervisor Mike Ennis** explained how proposed budget cuts will affect Tulare County. **Kings County CAO Larry Spikes** and **Deputy CAO Allison Picard** discussed the status of a proposed Secured Re-entry Facility that could soon be built in Kings County. I appreciated hearing about the progress each of the counties in my district is making toward economic development in these tough fiscal times.

I met with the **Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce** to hear about their opinions on proposed statewide legislation. Chambers of Commerce statewide, including the Bakersfield Chamber, have announced their support for my bill, **AB 2219**, which would give developers water credits for water conservation design measures.

In the District

I was honored to give the keynote speech at the **Community Action Partnership of Kern's (CAPK) Annual Humanitarian Awards Banquet**. This year, a number of terrific individuals and organizations were awarded, including: **Pascual Munoz** - Volunteer of the Year; **Dr. Larry Reider** - Individual of the Year; **Sheriff's Department, Lamont Substation** - Nonprofit/Government Entity of the Year; and **Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Cooper, Rosenlieb & Kimball LLP** - Corporation of the Year. CAPK has been a tremendous partner during my two decades of public service. We have worked together to address many of the natural disasters and social ills that have hit Kern County, including responding to citrus freezes, Operation Gobble to feed families during

Thanksgiving, and providing social services. To find out more about the wonderful services provided by CAPK, visit them at www.capk.org

Congratulations to the City of Avenal, which was recently awarded funding from the California Department of Public Health. The funding comes from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), so the City of Avenal can take additional steps to enhance the provision and protection of their drinking water supply.

I am pleased to announce that Pioneer Union Elementary School District in Hanford received a grant under the Safe Drinking Water Bond Law. The funds were awarded by the California Department of Water Resources to assist the community in meeting safe drinking water standards for its domestic water supply.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California State Board of Food have launched a series of listening sessions that will provide a forum for the agriculture industry and public to give input into our state's strategic agricultural vision planning. This vision will be used to guide public policy and investment priorities at the state and national level for the next 20 years. CDFA and the State Board are hosting statewide listening session to capture the public voice at a number of locations including: July 2, from 10am to 1pm at the Agricultural Heritage Center in Tulare. For more details, visit: www.cdffa.ca.gov/agvision

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Internships

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Derek Chernow** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Derek.Chernow@asm.ca.gov

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